

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 13 and 17-101 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10, 13, and 17-101 have been rejected. Claims 1, 13, 17, 19, 21, 22, 39, 46, 54, 59, 67, 76, 84, and 85 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 76 is objected to because of informalities. Claims 22 and 76 have been amended to correct typographical errors and are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 22-26, 36-38, 46-58 and 64-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action states that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. With regard to new limitations such as the “user interface object table comprising information regarding a user interface object of a user interface used to communicate via the communication channel,” the Office Action states the following:

Although applicant’s specification discloses user interface objects and communication channels, applicant’s specification does not implicitly or inherently describe a table that directly associates a user interface or user interface object with a communication channel.

Applicants respectfully submit that this statement mischaracterizes the claim. Each of the claim limitations cited describes a user interface object table comprising information regarding a user interface object of a user interface to communicate via the communication channel. No association between the user interface object table and the communication channel is claimed, and in particular, no direct association is claimed. The claims merely require that the user interface object is part of a user interface that is used to communicate via the communication channel, and that a table contains information regarding the user interface object.

Furthermore, in response to the written description rejection, Applicants provide the following excerpt from the originally-filed specification on page 41, lines 15-27, which describes

a database table containing information regarding user interface objects of a user interface used to communicate via the communication channel:

Communication server 109 uses configuration data 332 from customer support center database 330 to control the presentation of information to the agent via the client. For instance, the appearance of the toolbar presented by the client is determined according to configuration data 332. The buttons that appear, the commands that are invoked when an agent clicks each button, and the response triggered by an incoming event are all specified as part of configuration data 332.

Details of one possible embodiment of configuration data 332 are provided in the originally-filed specification in Figs. 2n – 2q. Using Applicants' disclosure, one of skill in the art could readily implement a user interface object table containing information regarding user interface objects of a user interface used to communicate via a communication channel. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the written description requirement is satisfied for the user interface object table and that claims 22-26, 36-38, 46-58 and 64-66 are allowable for at least this reason.

The Office Action also rejects claims 22-26, 36-38, 46-58 and 64-66 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully submit that the above excerpt of the originally-filed specification and Figures 2n – 2q enable a person of ordinary skill in the art to make and use a user interface object table. Furthermore, the Office Action itself recognizes that “[t]he specification disclose[s] activating a user interface object, activating an InvokeCommand function of the user interface object, sending the name of the command to a communication server, and using the command table, channel driver table, and configuration table to determine the channel driver [citations omitted].” (See Office Action dated November 17, 2005, page 3, paragraph 7.) The Office Action concludes that there is an indirect relationship between the user interface object and a communication channel through the mapping of a series of tables. Applicants agree.

However, Applicants disagree with the characterization that claims 22-26, 36-38, and 46-58 “recite a direct relationship between the user interface object and the communication channel using only one table.” (See Office Action dated November 17, 2005, page 4.) The Office Action goes on to describe “a table that directly links the user interface object to the vendor-specific communication channel.” (*Id.*)

No need for a direct relationship between a user interface object and a communication channel is needed to infringe the claim. The tables provided as example embodiments in the specification are examples only and do not limit the claim's interpretation to any specific relationship. For example, one table or multiple tables may be used to represent a given relationship. Furthermore, the originally-filed specification indicates that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the collection of tables shown in Figs. 2 and 2a through 2cc, the parameters included in each table, and the storage space allowed for the parameters are but one example of how the database schema may be configured, and that other suitable arrangements can be used in accordance with the present invention. (See originally-filed specification, page 9, lines 15-22.)

Moreover, even if a "direct relationship" were recited in the claim (which it is not), such a direct relationship is a narrower interpretation of the claim language than the disclosure provided in Applicants' originally-filed specification. Applicants' originally-filed specification has greater detail and is more complicated than would be necessary to describe a simpler direct relationship. Using the originally-filed specification, one of ordinary skill in the art would be fully enabled to make and use the invention as claimed, regardless of how the claim language is interpreted.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 22-26, 36-38 and 46-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,092,102 ("Wagner") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,961,620 ("Trent"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended independent claim 22 is presented below:

A computer-readable medium comprising:
a database comprising:
 a communication channel table comprising information regarding a communication channel;
 a user interface object table comprising information regarding a user interface object of a user interface used to communicate via the communication channel, wherein the information regarding the user interface object comprises a command associated with activation of the user interface object;
 a channel driver table comprising information regarding a channel driver that controls the operation of the communication channel and is operable to provide an event from the communication channel and to issue a command to the communication

channel;
 an event table comprising information regarding the event; and
 a command table comprising information regarding the command;
 and
 instructions to access the communication channel table, the user interface object table, the
 channel driver table, the event table, and the command table to communicate via the
 communication channel.

Applicants maintain their previously-stated position that Wagner does not teach all limitations of amended independent claim 22 cited above. For example, while Wagner does teach a database of information, Wagner's database does not include a counterpart to each of the claimed tables, including the communication channel table, the user interface object table, the channel driver table, the event table, and the command table. Nevertheless, the current rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 are addressed below.

Amended claim 22 contains a newly-added limitation that the user interface object table includes information about a command associated with activation of a user interface object; substantially similar limitations have been added to independent claims 46 and 54. The database of Wagner cannot be said to teach this limitation. At best, Wagner's database describes "preferences of the users for certain communication channels and preferences of the users for the characteristics of communication (e.g., reliability, time latency)." (See Wagner, column 11, lines 31-37.) Specific user interface objects within a given user interface are not taught by Wagner, and activation of user interface objects is not discussed.

Trent merely describes "user selection or dialing events entered in address book application program 206" and a "user interface function of application book program 206." (See Trent, column 6, lines 23-42.) Trent does not specifically describe specific user interface objects associated with the user selection or dialing events. Therefore, neither Trent nor Wagner has a need for a user interface object table to associate a user interface object with a command. Accordingly, a command associated with activation of a user interface object is absent from the teachings of Wagner and Trent, taken alone or in combination. All limitations of independent claim 22, 46, and 54 are not taught by Wagner and Trent and independent claim 22, its respective dependent claims 23-26 and 36-38, independent claim 46, its respective dependent claims 47-53, independent claim 54, and its respective dependent claims 55-58 are allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 1-10, 13, 17-21, 34, 39-42, 59-63, 67-76 and 84-94 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,463,292 (“Rahman”) in view of Trent. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claims 1, 13, 17, 19, 21, 39, 59, 67, 84, and 85 have also been amended to include a limitation substantially similar to the following:

accessing a user interface object table to identify a command associated with the activation of the user interface object;

The Office Action acknowledges that Rahman does not specifically teach that activation of the user interface object is associated with a command and causes a channel driver associated with the command to be identified. (See Office Action dated November 17, 2005, page 10, section 34.) Trent is cited as teaching the activation of the user interface object being associated with a command and causing a channel driver associated with the command to be identified. (Id.) However, neither Trent nor Rahman teaches anything regarding specific interface objects of a user interface and activation of particular user interface objects being associated with a command. As noted above, Trent merely describes “user selection or dialing events entered in address book application program 206” and a “user interface function of application book program 206.” (See Trent, column 6, lines 23-42.) Trent does not specifically describe specific user interface objects associated with the user selection or dialing events. Therefore, neither Trent nor Rahman has a need for a user interface object table to associate a user interface object with a command.

Because all limitations of independent claims 1, 13, 17, 19, 21, 39, 59, 67, 84, and 85 are not taught by Trent and Rahman, either alone or in combination, claims 1-10, 13, 17-21, 34, 39-42, 59-63, 67-76 and 84-94 are allowable.

Claims 27-33, 35, 43-45, 77-83 and 95-101 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rahman and Trent further in view of U.S. Patent 6,389,132 (“Price”). Each of claims 27-33, 35, 43-45, 77-83 and 95-101 depends from one of the independent claims 1, 13, 17, 39, and 67, which have been shown to be allowable over the combination of Rahman

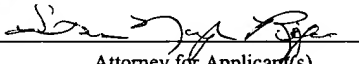
and Trent. Consequently, each of claims 27-33, 35, 43, 77-83, and 95-101 is allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 64-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,463,292 ("Rahman") in view of U.S. Patent 6,092,102 ("Wagner"). Each of claims 64-66 depends from independent claim 59, which has shown to be allowable over both references standing alone. Consequently, claims 64-66 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

In conclusion, each of claims 1-10, 13 and 17-101 have been shown to be allowable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5086.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on <u>March 15, 2006</u> .	
 Attorney for Applicant(s)	<u>3/15/06</u> Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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